

10th Regiment of United States Infantry, commanded by General Alexander Hamilton, was sent to Harper's Ferry and there spent the winter. The high land on which it encamped has ever since been known as "Camp Hill."

6. The "Memorandum" of Colonel John Stuart.—Colonel John Stuart was one of the most distinguished frontiersmen of West Virginia. Born in Virginia in 1730, he came with others to the Greenbrier wilderness in 1769, and halted near the present site of the town of Frankfort, in Greenbrier county, where he reared his cabin as a bethel over his first camping spot in the wilds of West Virginia. He commanded a company in the army of General Andrew Lewis, at the battle of Point Pleasant in 1774, and witnessed the murder of the Indian chieftain, Cornstalk, at that place November 10th, 1777. Upon the formation of Greenbrier county, he became Clerk of the Court, a position which he held for many years. July 15, 1798, he wrote in Deed Book No. 1, in the office of the Greenbrier County Court, an extended "Memorandum," to which we are indebted for much of our knowledge of the early settlements of the Greenbrier Valley.

7. Education in West Virginia Prior to the Year 1800.—We have but few records of educational work in West Virginia before the year 1800, but the old-time schoolmaster was then abroad in the land. The first effort to establish a school on the Ohio River, appears to have been made at Charlestown—now Wellsburg—in Brooke county in 1778, and the nucleus

thus formed seems to have expanded into Brooke Academy, which was incorporated in 1799. The first effort to establish a school of high grade in central West Virginia was that of Randolph Academy at Clarksburg, incorporated in 1785. Among the trustees of this institution were Governor Edmund Randolph, Benjamin Harrison, Patrick Henry and Ebenezer Zane. When a school was first established at Shepherdstown—the oldest town in the State—is not known. But Reverend Robert Stubbs who, December 3d, 1787, made affidavit that he had witnessed the trial of Rumsey's steamboat on the Potomac, subscribed himself, "Teacher of the Academy of Shepherdstown." Charlestown Academy in Jefferson County was incorporated in 1797.

1. Early West Virginia Pensioners.—Very soon after Virginia became an independent State, the Assembly began to make provision for the men who had been disabled in the military service of the Commonwealth. This was before the creation of the Pension Bureau of the Federal Government. In 1790, Thomas Pifer, of Randolph county, was placed on the pension rolls of the State because of wounds received at the battle of Point Pleasant. James Price and Abraham Nettles, of Greenbrier county, were granted pensions for services during the Revolution. In 1792, the names of Alexander Stewart and Benjamin Blackburne were added because of wounds received at the battle of Point Pleasant, and two years later, that of James Robinson was enrolled for the same cause.

9. **The Homes of the Pioneers.**—One of the frontiersmen has this to say of their homes: "In the whole display of furniture, the delft, china and silver were unknown. It did not then, as now, require



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contribution from the four quarters of the globe to furnish the breakfast table, viz.: the silver from Mexico; the coffee from the West Indies; the tea from China; and the delft and porcelain from Europe or Asia. Yet our homely fare and unsightly cabins and furniture produced the hardy

race, who planted the first footsteps of civilization in the immense region of the West. Inured to hardship, bravery and valor from their early youth, they sustained with manly fortitude the fatigue of the chase, the campaign and scout, and with strong arms turned the wilderness into fruitful fields, and have left to their descendants the rich inheritance of an immense commonwealth blessed with peace, wealth and prosperity."

10. **Character of the Pioneers.**—The first inhabitants of West Virginia were as hardy a race as ever braved the perils of the wilderness, but the men who

conquered it, have all fallen by the hand of death and many of them whose deeds deserved a monument, scarce found a tomb. Time has waged a merciless warfare upon the memorials of the Pioneer Age, which was to Virginia what the Heroic Age was to Greece. The men who settled in West Virginia prior to the close of the last century, knew when they came that it was to do or to die. A fierce, implacable and deadly foe met them at every hand. To succeed required caution, energy, courage, hope. All of these they possessed in an eminent degree, and they therefore won the rich inheritance which they have transmitted to their descendants.

II. Early House Building in West Virginia.—A family would leave the settled portions east of the mountains, cross the same, and journey through the forest or along the river, until a suitable location was found. Then a halt was made and house building began. Small trees were felled and logs cut to the proper length and then collected at the spot selected. Then the structure was raised. Clap-boards were split with a tool called a frow, and placed on the ribs of the house, and then weight-poles were laid on to hold the boards in place. Slabs, called puncheons, were then split and after being partially smoothed with the axe were laid down for a floor. Then spaces between the logs were filled with chinks and daubed with mortar made of clay. A huge fireplace occupied one end of the structure, and over it was erected a chimney made of sticks and clay, and called a "cat-and-clay" chimney. The house was usually of one

story. In such houses as these were born many of the men who have made the Commonwealth of West Virginia what it is to-day.

12. West Virginia at the Close of the Eighteenth Century.—At the close of the year 1800 there was a busy population in West Virginia numbering 78,592, there having been but 55,873 in 1790. Homes of thrift and industry gave evidence of long years of settlement in the Eastern Pan-Handle, while from the Alleghany mountains to the Ohio, cabin homes dotted the landscape. No sounding bell called these frontiersmen to the place of worship, but they were worshipers in all that the term implies. Ministers of all the leading denominations had gone among them, and after organizing a congregation had made the home of the pioneer a preaching place; and there the men who were felling the forest on the hills and in the valleys, gathered for services as often as the itinerant minister came. Thirteen of the present counties had an existence and Wheeling, Wellsburg, Clarksburg, Martinsburg, Shepherdstown, Parkersburg, Point Pleasant and Charleston were frontier villages.

CHAPTER XII.

From 1800 to 1811.

1. The Beginning of the Century.—At the beginning of the 19th century there was, as stated, a population of 78,592 in what is now West Virginia as determined by the census of 1800, and thirteen of the present counties had an existence. The Assembly, in 1801, passed various acts relating to matters west of the mountains. Ferries were established over the Ohio and Little Kanawha rivers at Parkersburg, and over the Great Kanawha at the mouth of Cole river. The town of Union, in Monroe county, began its legal existence. The Monongahela and Little Kanawha rivers were declared to be public highways, as was Elk creek as far up as "Jackson's Mill." A road from Romney through Berkeley county to the "Federal City" was directed to be constructed. The "Cross Roads," now Pruntytown, in Taylor county, was made a town by legislative enactment.

2. Roads in 1802.—Commissioners were appointed to view and mark a road from Keys' Ferry on the Shenandoah river through Berkeley and Hampshire counties to intersect the Maryland road near Gywnn's Tavern; these commissioners were required to meet at the mouth of New creek to begin their work. Forest fires were common, often from accident, but sometimes resulted from malicious intent and a penalty of

\$30 was fixed for each such offense. A wagon road was constructed over the mountains from the headwaters of the James river to the plantation of Carroll Morris on the Great Kanawha river, the work being superintended by David Ruffner.

3. **A French Traveler in West Virginia.**—In the year 1802 F. A. Michaux, M. D., a celebrated French physician and botanist, left Philadelphia, and, passing over the mountains, traversed the northern portion of West Virginia. On the morning of July 16th of the above named year he reached West Liberty, in Ohio county, which had been made a town by legislative enactment, November 20th, 1787, on lands owned by Reuben Foreman and Providence Mounce. This traveler, speaking of it, says: "We passed through West Liberty Town, a small town of about a hundred houses built on the side of a hill. The plantations in its neighborhood are numerous, and the soil, though unequal, is fertile. The price of land depends on its quality. The best in the proportion of twenty-five acres of cleared land in a lot of two or three hundred is not more than three or four piasters an acre."

4. **Occurrences in the Year 1803.**—A ferry was established over Fishing creek and another over Guyandotte river near its junction with the Ohio. It was represented to the Assembly, that because of the incursions of the Indians, William Clendenin, sheriff of Kanawha, had been unable to collect the taxes in that county for the years 1792-3-4, and an act was passed giving him two additional years in which to make the said collections. The Court of Wood county was

instructed by the General Assembly to appoint five commissioners to ascertain whether the erection of mills on the Little Kanawha river would be any obstruction to navigation and to report thereon to the Court.

5. **The Last Survivor of the Lewis and Clarke Expedition.**—In the year 1803 the United States purchased from France all that vast region west of the Mississippi, known as Louisiana territory. Of this

addition to the domain of the United States, but little was known, and Congress, the same year, made an appropriation and empowered President Jefferson to have it explored. To prosecute this work, he chose Meriwether Lewis and William Clarke, both of Virginia. They made the necessary preparation, and with a band of forty-three adventurers, rendezvoused on the Mississippi at the mouth of Du Bois River, where the winter of 1803 was spent. Monday, the 14th day of



MERIWETHER LEWIS
IN INDIAN COSTUME.*

May, 1804, the expedition began the journey up the

*Captain Meriwether Lewis, associate of Captain Clarke, was a nephew of President Jefferson, and was born in Albemarle county, Virginia, August 18th, 1774. Entering the army, he served during the Whisky Insurrection in 1794. He rose to the rank of Captain in 1800, and the next year became the private secretary of the President. After the return of the expedition he was appointed—1805—Governor of Louisiana Territory. In 1809 he started on an overland journey to Washington, and on the morning of October

long and silent river toward the Rocky Mountains. On the 25th, they passed the most western outpost of civilization and began the march into an un-



PATRICK GASS.*

known country. Onward they pressed through the homes of wild beasts and savage men; up the Missouri; over the vast mountain barriers and down the Columbia, until at length, on the 16th of November, 1805, they stood at its mouth and the Pacific Ocean lay before them. The return journey began, and on the 23d of September, 1806, the expedition reached St. Louis,

11th of that year was found dead in his room at a wayside inn in Tennessee. Whether he died by his own hand or that of an assassin will never be known.

*Patrick Gass, the last survivor of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was born June 12th, 1771, in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. Soon after the family removed to Maryland, but shortly returned to Pennsylvania. When but a boy he entered the army, and when not on the march or scouting he was engaged in garrison duty in the forts on the Upper Ohio. The United States, in 1798, in anticipation of a war with France, enlisted troops for the army. Patrick Gass enrolled himself as a member of the 10th regiment, which spent the winter of 1799 in camp at Harper's Ferry. In 1802 he served under Captain Bissell on the Tennessee river, and the next year went to Kaskaskia, Illinois. Here he enlisted as a member of the expedition, then fitting out to explore the Pacific Coast. In 1802 he entered the army again, and participated in the battles of Clippova, Landy's Lane and Fort Erie. In 1801 he married a lady in Brooke county—now in West Virginia—where he continued to reside until his death in 1870, then in his ninety-ninth year.

having spent two years, four months and nineteen days beyond the confines of civilization. Patrick Gass, of Brooke county, West Virginia, was the journalist of the expedition. He kept a diary of events, which was published at Pittsburg in 1807, and reprinted at Philadelphia in 1812. Aside from the official reports, we are indebted to Patrick Gass, the last survivor of the expedition, for nearly all the knowledge we have concerning it.

6. Blennerhassett's Island.—Situated in the Ohio river, two miles below the mouth of the Little Kanawha river, is the beautiful isle, known the world over as Blennerhassett's Island, for the world knows the story connected with it. Harman Blennerhassett was born of Irish parentage in Hampshire, England, in 1767, and was educated for the law. He inherited a valuable estate in Ireland of which he disposed by sale, and having resolved to come to America, he went to England to prepare for the voyage. While in that country he became acquainted with Miss Agnew, a daughter of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man, and a granddaughter of the celebrated general of that name, who fell in the battle of Germantown. She was young, intelligent and beautiful. She listened with delight to the stories of that far-off land in the Western World. There was a marriage, and Harman Blennerhassett and his bride crossed the ocean and landed in New York City in 1797. In the autumn of the same year they crossed the mountains and reached Pittsburg.

7. Seeking a Home.—At Pittsburg they obtained passage on a keel-boat, which was at that day the